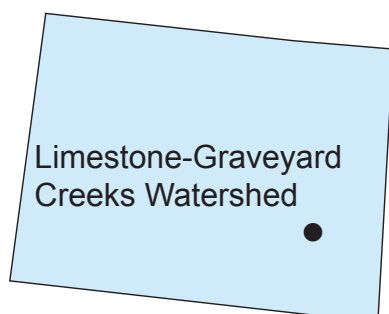


Watershed Operations

August 2009

Introduction

This watershed project will help landowners improve management strategies and install efficient irrigation systems applied on cropland and adjacent properties located along the Arkansas River in southeastern Colorado.



The Limestone-Graveyard Creeks Watershed is located in southeastern Colorado in Bent and Prowers Counties.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Investing in the Limestone-Graveyard Creeks Watershed, Colorado

Project Description

- **Location:** Bent and Prowers Counties, 4th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$187,000

This project will fund five contracts with mostly family-owned farms that will result in significant water quality improvement, conservation of an over-used water supply, and enhancement of scarce wildlife habitat.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bent Conservation District
- Prowers Conservation District
- Fort Lyon Canal Company
- Colorado State Conservation Board

Benefits

The project will benefit 1,250 local residents through more efficient practices that reduce soil erosion and conserve irrigation water which will reduce sediment and salt deposits to the Arkansas River. These practices will also reduce nitrates in the groundwater aquifer and improve 20 miles of stream corridor to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.



Construction practices, like land leveling (above), are sometimes required prior to installing structural conservation practices, which results in more efficient use of irrigation water and improved water quality.

Investing in the Limestone-Graveyard Creeks Watershed, Colorado

Economic Opportunities

The Limestone-Graveyard Creeks project will help improve the use of water distribution from agricultural to municipal uses and reduce severe economic and environmental impacts. This project will create or save jobs. Once completed, this project will provide \$730,000 in average annual benefits.

Statewide Perspective

Irrigated agriculture drives the economy in southeastern Colorado. Continued improvements on remaining farms will increase the viability of the rural communities within this watershed.

For More Information

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Gated pipe is a practice that ensures an appropriate and efficient water flow onto irrigated lands. This will help reduce deep percolation, runoff and irrigation induced erosion, thus improving water quality.

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